The Vaca Valley Scene

Rubinoff Terms Thursday 'Nicest Day'

By KATHY KEATLEY

Dave Rubinoff and his violin so completely captured his audience at the concert Thursday evening in Vacaville High School gymnasium that it was difficult to tell who enjoyed it most—Rubinoff or the audience.

"The is one of the nicest days. This is one of the highlights of my life and I really mean this," Rubinoff told the approximately 420 people attending the concert.

It took a chorus of children's voices at Elm School, a little boy's answer to a question at Alamo School, and an inspired audience at the evening concert to do it.

Thursday morning Rubinoff performed at four schools, Vacaville High, Edwin Markham, Alamo and Elm. Hemlock School students were at Edwin Markham, Ulatis at Alamo and Monte Vista at Elm.

Maestro Cries

It was at Elm that the 68-year-old maestro, who has been playing the violin for 63 years, cried. Velma Fruhling's chorus, consisting of approximately 200 fourth, fifth and sixth graders, sang five selections from "Mary Poppins," which were taped for Rubinoff. The selections were "Spoon Full of Sugar," "Jolly Holiday," "Feed the Birds," "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," and "Stay Awake."

"I broke down and cried," Rubinoff told the audience at the evening performance. "The voices of children are the greatest music in the world. No symphony can equal them. They did something to me that will stay with me forever."

At the evening concert, Rubinoff asked Mrs. Fruhling to stand and thanked her profusely. Mrs. Fruhling, addressing the audience, said she felt "very humble. I thank Mr. Rubinoff for giving the children a musical experience they will never forget for the rest of their lives."

Rubinoff told the audience that the "funniest thing that ever happened in my life" occurred at Alamo School. At the conclusion of his performance, the children stood and applauded and he told them "Your applause will not go to my head. It will go to my heart."

The Will Rogers Watch

Then he took a watch from his pocket (given to him by his friend, the late Will Rogers), and asked if anyone knew who gave it to him. One little boy stands up, wipes off his little mouth, pulls up his little pants and asks 'Did George Washington give you the watch?' "

Rubinoff, laughing, told the audience, "I'm not that old. You ought to see that kid," he added. "He's cute."

When Rubinoff told the children that Will Rogers gave him the watch, he overheard a comment—"Whatdaya know, Roy Rogers gave him the watch!"

Inscribed on the watch is the "greatest poem in the world," Rubinoff said, and read it at the concert. Titled the "Clock of Life," it reads:

"The Clock of Life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time we own
Love, live, toil with a will,
Do not wait until tomorrow,
For the Clock may then be still."

Rubinoff was once asked how he could keep playing continuously. "You play with your heart," he answered. "You do not play with your fingers." And at the evening concert, he played with his heart. His facial expressions were sometimes gay, sometimes sorrowful, sometimes mischievous, but always intent. They were the expressions of an artist.

At times he seemed to coax the silken strains from his Romanoff Stradivarius, his brow furrowed, forehead lined and lips slightly moving. His audience was with him at every stroke, from the opening "Dance the Peasant" to "The Star Spangled Banner."

Performs Commercials

He performed "Clair de Lune," "Hora Staccato," "Warsaw Concerto," "Fly Me to the Moon," "Jalousie" and "TV Special" before intermission. "TV Special" featured a medley of 22 commercials, including those of Newport, Pepsi, Coke, Hollywood Hillbillies, Green Giant, Bonanza, Alfred Hitchcock, Mr. Clean, Brylclean, Winston, Doublemint, Gillette and Wagon Train.

Rubinoff brought laughter and amusement to the crowd as the familiar strains with an artistic touch filled the air.

Following the 10-minute intermission, he performed "Polonaise (Opus 53)," "When Day Is Done," "Fiddlin' the Fiddle," "Ah Sweet Mystery of Life," and a medley of square dance fiddling, which numbered 18 selections. Included were "Arkansas Traveler," "Little Brown Jug," "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers," "Red Wing," "Little Liza Jane," "Mocking Bird," "Hoe Down," "Turkey in the Straw" and "Good Night Ladies." The floor vibrated with the tapping of feet.

In thanking the Kiwanis for bringing him to Vacaville, he was especially appreciative of being able to perform for the children. "It is not only violin playing. It is inspiration for the future. I don't think I've ever had so much fun in my life."

Home In Carmichael

"You've been the highlights of my life," Rubinoff told his audience, and added he will soon make his home in Carmichael, and wouldn't be "too far away."

"It seems like yesterday in 1911 when I arrived in the United States," he reminisced. (He was born in Russia.) "It seems like yesterday in 1928 when I went on radio."

The applause after each number at the concert was spontaneous. Rubinoff was deeply moved as he accepted the applause, bowing and placing a hand over his heart.

Following the last number on the program, "Square Dance Fiddlin'," the audience gave him a standing ovation. Rubinoff quipped, "Might as well play another number. No place to go here at night."

The performance ended with the national anthem, with the audience standing and singing.

Rubinoff concluded the concert with "Did you really enjoy the concert, huh?" The answer was a thunderous roar of applause.

After the performance autographed programs for adults and children, se himself at a table on the floor.

Tape Played at Receptio

A reception for the ma began shortly after 10 p the Harvey Kaplow home, approximately 35 atte The tape made at Elm S was played.

According to Mrs. Ka who accompanied Rubino the school tour, the respo the schools was "just fabul the children raved about

She said it was the "gre thing for the children," a tributed the "tremendous ber" of children at the ev concert to his preview a schools.

Rubinoff was "quite to at Elm School," she pointe

The maestro lunched wi Vacaville Rotarians, and marked at the evening co that he even "had to fidd my lunch."

The children seemed as for the evening concert to as the adults. When the opened at 7:30, most of who swarmed in first were dren. As they grouped a the platform, waiting for concert to begin, they kept ing "What time does it What time is it now?"

Each year Rubinoff s nine months touring the performing at evening co club luncheons, hospitals on radio and TV broadcas a concert in the Chicago Park, he attracted 225,00 teners (one of the largest ences to attend a concert United States) at which h soloist with the Chicago harmonic.

Violin Made in 173

His violin, made in 17 Antonio Stradivari in Cre Italy, passed into the han the Romanoff family, re family of Russia, and a peared during the revo Rubinoff purchased it in from the Wurlitzer coll in New York.

Elaborately engraved an jeweled with a coat of ar the Romanoff family, as w the identification mark of divari and the date, the is insured for $100,000 and a deep brownish-red lust

But Vacaville children probably always remembe man, not the violin, and he shared his talent with Although not all children remember his name when got home from school T day, they knew what he d

One boy commented: who is that guy with a like Christmas (Rudolph) the best violinist in the world? He was at Alamo S today."

RUBINOFF AND CHOIR DIRECTOR VELMA FRUHLING
. . . She made him cry

THE MAESTRO paused a moment from autographing programs to talk to Ramon Curiel Jr. In the background (at right) is Harvey Kaplow, a Kiwanis member. A reception was held in the Kaplow home following the concert.

RUBINOFF (left) talked to three Vacaville presidents following his concert Thursday evening in Vacaville High School gymnasium. From left are Mrs. Morris Wasserman, of the Saturday Club, Sam Erwin of Kiwanis, sponsors of the event, and John Rico of the Chamber of Commerce.

McCall Employee To Talk at School

Miss Barbara Seibert, educational representative for McCall's Patterns on the West Coast, will present a program at 2:55 p.m. Thursday to the girls at Willis Jepson homemaking classes in room B-13.

Miss Seibert is scheduled to show 12 costumes. She will show what is new in school fashions and fabrics and illustrate the effects of line, color and texture on different girls.

Mothers and friends are invited to attend this special program.

Garden Club Sets Christmas Party

Vaca Valley Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Senior Citizens Building for its Christmas party. Each member will bring her own refreshments, including cookies or a cake.

Mrs. M. D. McCarl of 170 Isle Royal Circle will speak on hobbies and arts.

'Rare Breed' to Be Shown Tomorrow

The premiere showing of "Rare Breed," a technicolor movie by Universal starring James Stewart and Maureen O'Hara, will begin tomorrow evening at 8 in the El Rey Theater, Vallejo, in honor of Cong. Robert Leggett and Assemblyman Pearce Young.

Leggett has just returned to his home in Solano County

ern film he has done since.

Two romances result from the longhorn-Hereford conflict —Stewart and Maureen O'Hara, and Juliet Mills and Don Galloway, a newcomer to the screen. Brian Keith stars as a feudal ranch baron and the father of Galloway.

Juliet Mills rides bareback

horns "meatless, milkless and murderous." They were descended from cattle the Spanish conquistadores brought with them to America in the 16th century.

True longhorns in the United States total not more than 3000 head. A few small herds are kept by ranchers in Texas and

The new picture is O'Hara's 31st starring feat color.

Tickets may be purc from committee me James (Bud) Caughy, cha of the Vacaville Voter E tion Committee, is assist Jim Nolan, ticket sales man. Darlene Contreras,